Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4684 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 6773

E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: PINT. IS

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT LIBERALS VOTE FOR NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 6772

- 1. AFTER REPORTEDLY STORMY DEBATE, INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (ILP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 21 ADOPTED RESOLUTION (57-30) SPONSORED BY MINISTERS MOSHE KOL AND GIDEON HAUSNER, RECOMMENDING FORMATION OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT ON BASIS OF "OPEN OPTIONS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PREMISE OF TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE." IN SEPARATE VOTE, OVERWHELMING MAJORITY ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PALESINE-ARAB AUTONOMY" IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA.
- 2. KOL, IN EXPLAINING HIS SUPPORT FOR UNITY GOVERNMENT CONCEPT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR MAXIMUM NATIONAL UNITY IN WAKE OF RABAT CONFERNECE AND ARAFAT'S UN APPEARANCE. MK YEHUDA SHAANI, WHO LED MINORITY OPPOSTION GROUP, ARGUED THAT UNITY GOVERNEMTN WOULD PARALYZE GOI EFFORTS TO REACH NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENTS WITH ARAB STATES.
- 4. IN CONTEXT OF MOUNTING PRESSURES FOR FORMATION OF ENLARGED GOVERNMENT(REFTEL, ILP DECISION IS FIRST CRACK IN POSITION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTIES WHICH AVE SO FAR BEEN OPPOSED TO LIKUD-NRP EFFORTS TO

BRING LIKUD INTO GOVERNMENT. WHILE ILP MINORITY HAS
FOAVORED UNITY GOVERNMENT SINCE DECEMBER 1973, ELECTION, KOL AND
HAUSNER HAD THERETOFORE BEEN OPPOSED. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY
USUALLY WELL-INFORMED JOURNALIST THAT WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON
TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION WAS TO FORCE
SPLIT BETWEEN BEGIN'S HERUT PARTY AND OTHER MORE MODERATE
ELEMENTS IN LIKUD, WITH ONLYLATTER ENTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT LIKUD IS ABOUT TO SPLIT UP, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT GOI NO LONGER FACES NEGOTIATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE OVER WEST BANK. BUT ILP DECISION DOES GIVE ADDED WEIGHT TO LIKUD-NRP PRESSURES FOR ENLARGED GOVERNMENT. KEATING

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